

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A service system for allowing a person to watch or listen to image or sound recorded in a recording medium as visual or aural data, comprising:

5 (a) a first terminal;

(b) at least one second terminal which is capable of making communication with said first terminal through a network, said second terminal being fixed in a predetermined closed area; and

10 (c) a plurality of third terminals each making communication with said second terminal through radio signals, each of said third terminals being held by said person and being movable within said predetermined closed area,

said first terminal including a database storing visual and aural data therein and distributing said visual and aural data to said second terminal,

15 said second terminal storing therein said visual and aural data distributed from said first terminal, and distributing said visual and aural data to each of said third terminals in response to an access made by each of said third terminals to said second terminal,

20 each of said third terminals making access to said second terminal by transmitting a signal indicative of visual and/or aural data selected by a user, receiving visual and/or aural data indicated by said signal, and reproducing the thus received visual and/or aural data.

2. The service system as set forth in claim 1, wherein each of said third terminals includes:

25 (b1) a radio-signal interface transmitting radio signals to and receiving radio signals from said second terminal;

(b2) a reproducer which reproduces said visual and/or aural data; and

(b3) a man-machine interface through which a user selects his/her desired visual and/or aural data.

3. The service system as set forth in claim 2, wherein each of said third terminals further includes a memory in which visual and/or aural data having been reproduced by said reproducer is stored.

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4. The service system as set forth in claim 2, wherein each of said third terminals further includes a memory having a driver for driving a removable recording medium.

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5. The service system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said second terminal has a function of carrying out multi-destination delivery.

6. The service system as set forth in claim 1, wherein each of said third terminals is comprised of a cellular phone.

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7. The service system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said second terminal and each of said third terminals make communication with each other through bluetooth signals.

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8. A service system for allowing a customer to watch or listen to image or sound recorded in a recording medium as visual or aural data, in a shop selling said recording medium, before said customer makes decision as to whether he/she purchases said recording medium, said customer having a terminal which is movable in said shop and to which said visual or aural data is transmitted for

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allowing said customer to watch or listen to said visual or aural data.

9. A service system for allowing a customer to watch or listen to image or sound recorded in a recording medium as visual or aural data, in a shop selling said recording medium, before said customer makes decision as to whether he/she

purchases said recording medium,

said service system comprising:

(a) a first terminal located outside said shop;

5 (b) at least one second terminal which is capable of making communication with said first terminal through a network, said second terminal being fixed in said shop; and

(c) a plurality of third terminals each making communication with said second terminal through radio signals, each of said third terminals being held by said customer in said shop, and accordingly being movable within said shop,

10 said first terminal including a database storing visual and aural data therein and distributing said visual and aural data to said second terminal,

said second terminal storing therein said visual and aural data distributed from said first terminal, and distributing said visual and aural data to each of said third terminals in response to an access made by each of said third terminals to said second terminal,

15 each of said third terminals making access to said second terminal by transmitting a signal indicative of visual and/or aural data selected by said customer, receiving visual and/or aural data indicated by said signal, and reproducing the thus received visual and/or aural data.

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10. The service system as set forth in claim 9, wherein said second terminal transmits a list showing all visual and aural data which said customer can watch or listen to, to each of said third terminals.

25 11. The service system as set forth in claim 9, wherein each of said third terminals includes:

(b1) a radio-signal interface transmitting radio signals to and receiving radio signals from said second terminal;

(b2) a reproducer which reproduces said visual and/or aural data; and

(b3) a man-machine interface through which a user selects his/her desired visual and/or aural data.

12. The service system as set forth in claim 11, wherein each of said third
5 terminals further includes a memory in which visual and/or aural data having been reproduced by said reproducer is stored.

13. The service system as set forth in claim 11, wherein each of said third
10 terminals further includes a memory having a driver for driving a removable recording medium.

14. The service system as set forth in claim 9, wherein said second terminal has a function of carrying out multi-destination delivery.

15 15. The service system as set forth in claim 9, wherein each of said third terminals is comprised of a cellular phone.

16. The service system as set forth in claim 9, wherein said second terminal and each of said third terminals make communication with each other through
20 bluetooth signals.

17. A method of allowing a person to watch or listen to image or sound recorded in a recording medium as visual or aural data, in a system including:

a first terminal;

25 at least one second terminal which is capable of making communication with said first terminal through a network, said second terminal being fixed in a predetermined closed area;

a plurality of third terminals each making communication with said second terminal through radio signals, each of said third terminals being held by said

person and being movable within said predetermined closed area,

said method comprising the steps of:

(a) said person transmitting a request of watching or listening to his/her desired visual or aural data, to said second terminal through each of said third
5 terminals;

(b) said second terminal transmitting said request to said first terminal;

(c) said first terminal transmitting visual and/or aural data identified by said request, to said second terminal;

(d) said second terminal transmitting the received visual and/or aural data
10 to each of said third terminals; and

(e) said third terminal reproducing said visual and/or aural data having been received from said second terminal.

18. The method as set forth in claim 17, further comprising the step of (f)
15 said second terminal storing therein said visual and/or aural data having been received from said first terminal.

19. The method as set forth in claim 17, further comprising the step of (g)
each of said third terminals storing said visual and/or aural data having been
20 received from said second terminal, in a memory which is removable from each of said third terminals.

20. A method of allowing a customer to watch or listen to image or sound recorded in a recording medium as visual or aural data, in a shop selling said
25 recording medium, before said customer makes decision as to whether he/she purchases said recording medium, in a service system comprising:

(a) a first terminal located outside said shop;

(b) at least one second terminal which is capable of making communication with said first terminal through a network, said second terminal being fixed in

said shop; and

(c) a plurality of third terminals each making communication with said second terminal through radio signals, each of said third terminals being held by said customer in said shop, and accordingly being movable within said shop,

5 said method comprising the steps of:

(a) said customer transmitting a request of watching or listening to his/her desired visual or aural data, to said second terminal through each of said third terminals;

(b) said second terminal transmitting said request to said first terminal;

10 (c) said first terminal transmitting visual and/or aural data identified by said request, to said second terminal;

(d) said second terminal transmitting the received visual and/or aural data to each of said third terminals; and

15 (e) said third terminal reproducing said visual and/or aural data having been received from said second terminal.

21. The method as set forth in claim 20, further comprising the step of (f) said second terminal storing therein said visual and/or aural data having been received from said first terminal.

20 22. The method as set forth in claim 20, further comprising the step of (g) each of said third terminals storing said visual and/or aural data having been received from said second terminal, in a memory which is removable from each of said third terminals.

25 23. The method as set forth in claim 20, further comprising the step of (h) said second terminal transmitting a list showing all visual and aural data which said customer can watch or listen to, to each of said third terminals.